Norms for telephone exchanges in rural areas

897. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have revised the norms for opening of new telephone exchanges in the rural areas of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Conversion of overhead telephone wires into underground cable

†898. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to lack of departmental foresightedness overhead telephone wires connecting Chamurkha village under Kurebhar Telephone Exchange of Sultanpur district in Uttar Pradesh are routed through dense jungles of bamboo and mango trees which often remain broken and the demand for laying underground cable is turned down on one or the other pretext;

(b) whether Government would convert overhead cable of at least between last two poles to underground cable so as to tackle with the said problem;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Only one telephone connection is working in Chamurkha village under Kurebhar telephone exchange of Sultanpur district in Uttar Pradesh. There is no further demand from the village for telephones. For one connection, laying of cable is not justified. However, action is taken from time to time to remove branches of trees coming in the way of alignment.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.